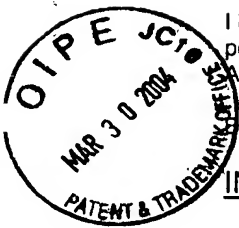


Docket No.: MOH-P010004



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By: Wm. Stein Date: March 25, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/612,647 Confirmation No:3679
Applicant : Jürgen Stabel-Weinheimer et al.
Filed : July 2, 2003
Art Unit : 3641
Examiner : Jack W. Keith

Docket No. : MOH-P010004
Customer No. : 24131

R E S P O N S E

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 18, 2004, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on page 2 of the Office action for the above-identified application, applicants elect group I, claims 1-14 directed to the subcombination at this time.

The requirement for the restriction is respectfully traversed. As properly outlined by the Examiner, combinations and subcombinations are properly restricted out if the two requirements mentioned by the Examiner are met. Here, only one criterion is satisfied, in that the subcombination has utility without the combination.

The combination claim 15 and 16 each includes all of the limitations of the subcombination, as they are in fact dependent claims. By referring to "claim 1," these claims incorporate each and every limitation of the subcombination. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider the restriction requirement.

In deference to the election requirement, applicants herewith elect species B, Figs. 19-21. The following claims read on the elected species of Fig. 19-21: claims 1-6 and 12-14.

Applicants are of the opinion that at least claims 1-4 are generic.

In light of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits, and the allowance of all of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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